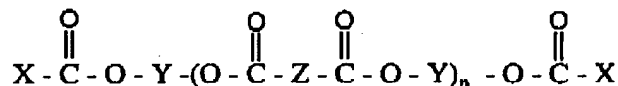


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Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) An ester or ester composition according to the formula:



wherein

X is ~~an~~ a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having ~~5-11~~ 7-9 carbon atoms;

Y is ~~an~~ a saturated branched alkylene group having ~~2-8~~ 4-6 carbon atoms;

Z is ~~an~~ a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having ~~3-5~~ 4 carbon atoms and

n is a weight average number between ~~1 and 10~~ 1.5 and 5.

2. (Currently amended) An ester or ester composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ester has a kinematic viscosity at 100°C less than 20mm²/s and a kinematic viscosity at 40°C of less than 150mm²/s.

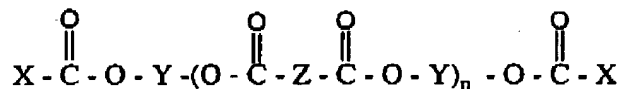
3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A process for preparing an ester or ester composition as claimed in claim 1, by reacting together a monocarboxylic acid having a group X, a diol having a group Y and a dicarboxylic acid having a group Z, wherein the ratio of OH groups and COOH groups in the reaction mixture, at the start of the reaction, is 0.9:1-1.1:1 and the ratio of COOH groups from monocarboxylic acid to the dicarboxylic acid in the reaction mixture, at the start of the reaction, is 0.3:1-1.5:1.

6. (New) The ester composition of claim 1 further comprising an oil selected from a mineral oil, a vegetable oil, or an animal oil.

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7. (New) An ester composition suitable as a metal working fluid comprising an ester according to the formula:



wherein

X is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 5-11 carbon atoms;

Y is an alkylene group having 4-6 carbon atoms;

Z is an a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 4 carbon atoms and

n is a weight average number between 1 and 10.

8. (New) The ester composition of claim 7 further comprising a surfactant.

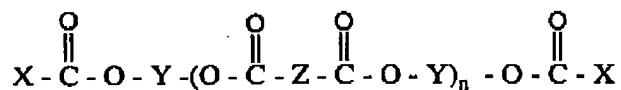
9. (New) The ester composition of claim 7 further comprising an emulsifier.

10. (New) The ester composition of claim 7 further comprising a corrosion inhibitor.

11. (New) The ester composition of claim 7 further comprising water.

12. (New) The ester composition of claim 11 wherein said ester is present in an amount of from 5 to 70 wt.%, relative to the total fluid.

13. (New) An ester composition suitable as a hydraulic fluid comprising an ester according to the formula:



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wherein

X is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 5-11 carbon atoms;

Y is an alkylene group having 4-6 carbon atoms;

Z is an a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 4 carbon atoms and

n is a weight average number between 1 and 10.

14. (New) The ester composition of claim 13 further comprising a metal deactivator.
15. (New) The ester composition of claim 13 further comprising a corrosion inhibitor.
16. (New) The ester composition of claim 13 further comprising an anti-foam agent.
17. (New) The ester composition of claim 13 further comprising an anti-oxidant.
18. (New) The ester composition of claim 13 further comprising an emulsifier.
19. (New) A metal working fluid comprising an ester according to the formula:



wherein

X is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 5-11 carbon atoms;

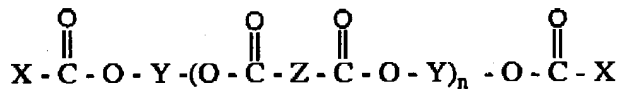
Y is an alkylene group having 4-6 carbon atoms;

Z is an a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 4 carbon atoms and

n is a weight average number between 1 and 10.

20. (New) A hydraulic fluid comprising an ester according to the formula:

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wherein

X is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 5-11 carbon atoms;

Y is an alkylene group having 4-6 carbon atoms;

Z is an a saturated linear aliphatic hydrocarbyl group having 4 carbon atoms and

n is a weight average number between 1 and 10.